

New Industries in Kerala

5400. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are making large investments in some States like Haryana for setting up of industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start new industries in Kerala also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present in Ministry of Industry for setting up any new large and medium scale industries in the public sector in the States of Kerala and Haryana.

Corruption Charges Against Judges

5401. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court against whom enquiry is being conducted on corruption charges; and

(b) the time by which this enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill

5402. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, as amended in line with the recommendations of the Joint Committee report on the proposed Bill during the current Budget Session of the Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) With a view to ensuring that the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996 has a smooth passage in both Houses of Parliament, Government is ascertaining afresh, views of the various political parties. The first round of discussion with political parties has already been held and another is expected shortly.

Giddhi Washery

5403. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coal washed every month in Giddhi Washery;

(b) whether better quality of coal is being sold in the name of piddling coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Monthwise quantity of coal washed at Giddi Washery of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) during 1996-97 is as under:

Month	(Million Tonnes)
April, 1996	0.06
May, 1996	0.06
June, 1996	0.09
July, 1996	0.17
August, 1996	0.16
September, 1996	0.18
October, 1996	0.18
November, 1996	0.12
December, 1996	0.14
January, 1997	0.15
February, 1997	0.15
March, 1997	0.19
Total	1.65

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (b) of the question.

Amendment in the RP Act, 1951

5404. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Section 195 of Representation of People Act, 1951 to enable deployment of employees of banks, public sector undertakings and educational institutions like Kendriya Vidyalayas for election purposes;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Election Commission in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW

AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) There is no section 195 in the Representation of the People Act, 1951. However, a proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the said Act to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties. This is one of the additional proposals on Electoral Reforms which are under discussion with leaders of various political parties.

[Translation]

Hotel Expenses of Officers of CIL

5405. PROF. RITA VERMA:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on payment of Hotel bills of the officers of B.C.C.L. during their visits to Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai or other cities during the last three years;

(b) whether the guest houses of Coal India Ltd. are located in these cities;

(c) if so, the area-wise number thereof and the details of annual expenditure incurred on them during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check wasteful expenditure by asking all officers of B.C.C.L. to stay in Government Guest Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The expenditure incurred during the last three years on payment of hotel bills of the officers of BCCL are as under:

1994—95	1995—96	1996—97 (upto Dec. 96)
Rs. 21,29,870	Rs. 24,18,398	Rs. 17,20,292

(b) Coal India maintains guest houses at Calcutta and New Delhi.

(c) Details of expenditure on CIL guest houses are as under:-

Location	Number of Guest Houses	Annual Expenditure (Rs. in lakh) during last three years		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (provn.)
Calcutta	6	22.57	22.31	22.45
Delhi	5	35.69	33.27	35.06

(d) Necessary instructions have already been given by BCCL to all officers in BCCL to stay in guest houses where these are available. In case no accommodation is available in guest houses, non-availability certificates are issued by concerned authorities for making their arrangement for stay in hotel.

[English]

Election Commission

5406. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Electoral Officers of various States and Union Territories have proposed that powers to make rules to conduct polls be rested with the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not favour the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Judges

5407. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to amend the existing policy of appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the outlines of the decision taken by a bench of nine judges of Supreme Court recently;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the various political parties for the proposed amendments; and

(d) if so, the details of their views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conclusions arrived at by the majority judgement are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The draft Constitution (Eighty Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 has accordingly been circulated to members of Lok Sabha. A process of consultation has been initiated to evolve a consensus in this matter.